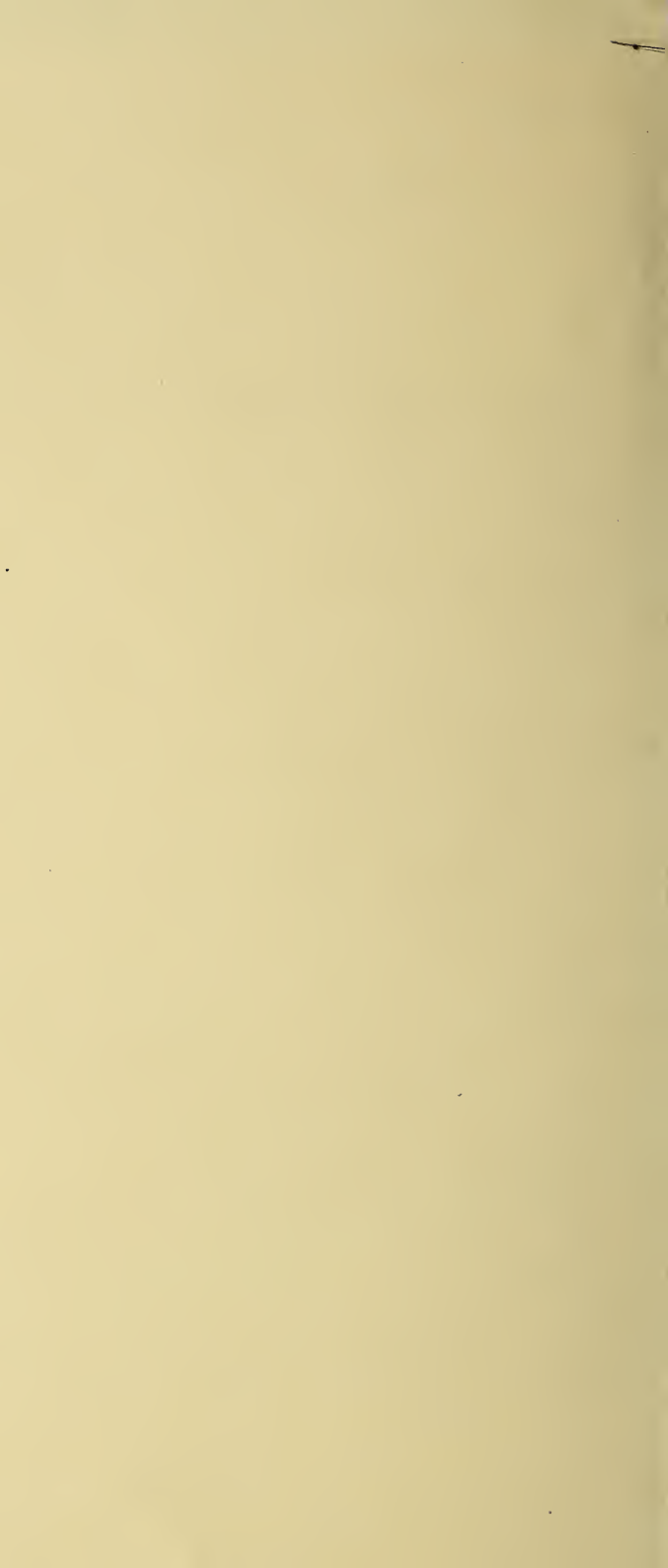


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United States Department  
Agriculture

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Conservation Service

# Urban Mobile Irrigation Lab

*What is it?*

# What is an Urban MIL?

The Urban Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL) was developed to help people conserve water, particularly in fast growing, urban areas of the State. As urban populations increase dramatically in Florida, so do the pressures on water resources. Residents



USDA Photo: Larry Rouse



USDA Photo: Larry Rouse

face the possibility of new regulations, greater restrictions, and increased costs of water usage every year, therefore; conserving water and protecting water quality are two top priorities in Florida.

The MIL is a service that provides on-site evaluations of individual irrigation systems. Upon request, MIL technicians take samples of the soil to determine the moisture level and rooting depths in a home owner's lawn. They also take

*The MIL operator takes soil cores from different points in the lawn. He shows a homeowner just how much moisture is in the soil.*





USDA Photo: Ken Hammond

water measurements from individual irrigation systems to determine the uniformity of water distribution. After all the information is collected, MIL operators use it to identify problems and work with home owners to solve them. Through this service, home owners learn to use water more efficiently.

*Technicians determine whether water is applied uniformly and keep careful records of all information collected on site.*



USDA Photo: Ken Hammond

## What are the Benefits?

Water conservation benefits the environment and the economy. The MIL helps urban residents conserve water voluntarily. Most people don't intentionally over-water—they recognize that it is a costly waste of a precious resource. However, people may not realize that over-watering is a potential threat to water quality. Excessive water may cause fertilizers and pesticides to

**For More Information—Contact your local Natural Resources Conserva**



USDA Photo: Ken Hammond

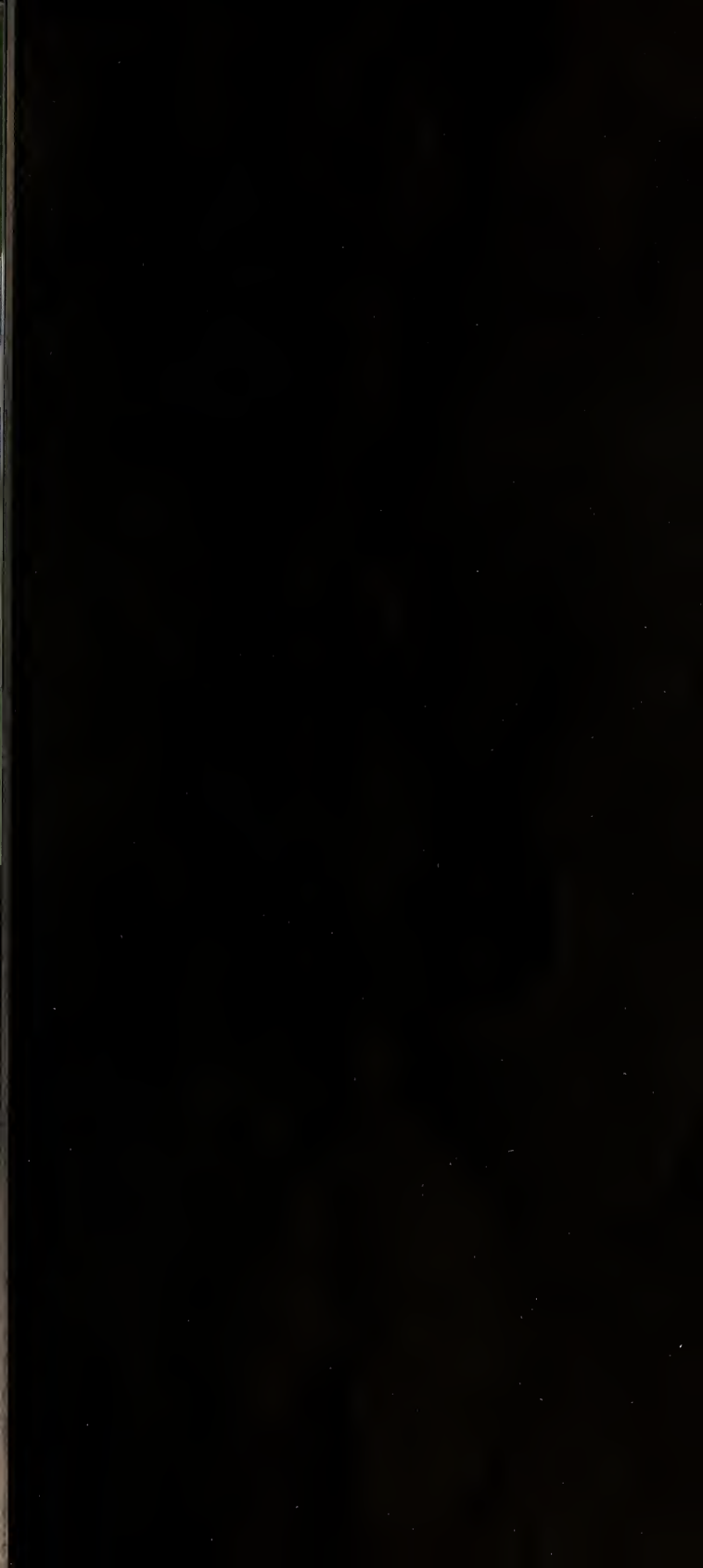
leach into the ground water. MIL technicians show home owners how to schedule lawn and landscape irrigation to avoid over-watering. Proper irrigation helps people conserve water, save money, and protect water quality.

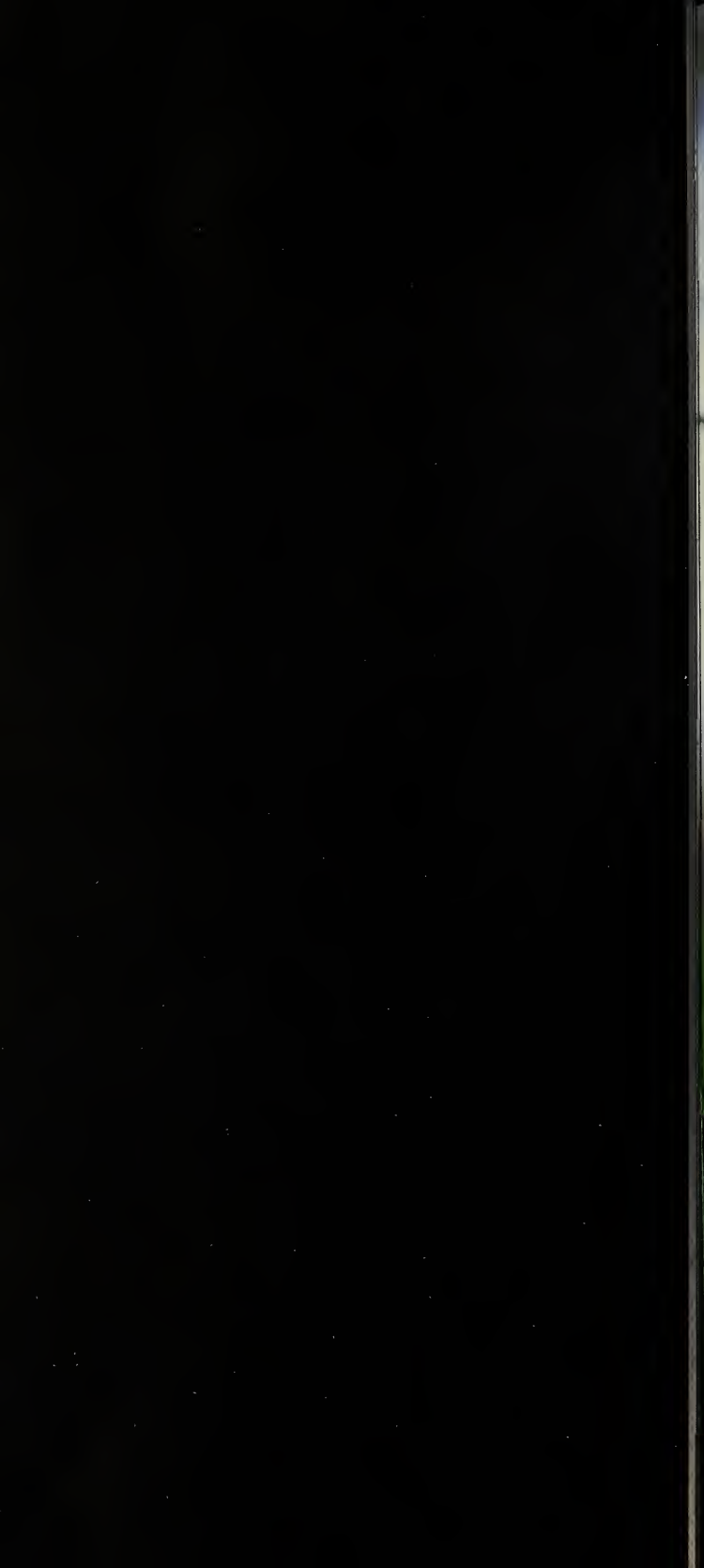
*With technical help, this home owner designs an irrigation system to meet the needs of his lawn and to conserve water in the process.*

## Things You Can Do

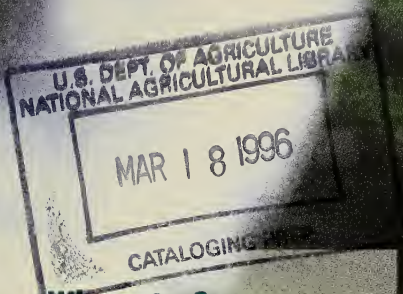
- Recognize and correct obvious problems
- Learn your lawn's specific water requirements
- Properly manage the timing of irrigation
- Comply with your local water use regulations

**ion Service or your local Soil and Water Conservation District.**









## **Where to Go for Help**

Contact your local  
Natural Resources  
Conservation Service office.  
It is listed in the telephone  
directory under Government  
offices—

U.S. Department of  
Agriculture, Natural  
Resources Conservation  
Service (formerly known as  
Soil Conservation Service).

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